Mrs. Bimla Devi

Laparoscopic Wertheims(Radical)Hysterectomy for Cancer Cervix

Unlike the west where Breast Cancer is the biggest killer, Cervical Cancer is the biggest killer for Indian women. World over 500,000 cases are diagnosed annually. Out of these 79% are in Developing countries like India, and around 280,000 deaths occur annually due to the same amounting to over 50%.

India has a population of 366.58 millions women ages 15 years and older who are at risk of developing cervical cancer. Current estimates indicate that every year 134420 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer and 72825 die from the disease. Cervical cancer ranks as the 1st most frequent cancer among women in India, and the 1st most frequent cancer among women between 15 and 44 years of age.

**Burden of cervical cancer in India**
Annual number of cervical cancer cases 134420
Annual number of cervical cancer deaths 72825
Projected number of new cervical cancer cases in 2025 is 203757
Projected number of cervical cancer deaths in 2025 is 115171
Crude incidence rates per 100,000 population and year:
Cervical cancer - 23.5

Prevention of cervical cancer by papsmears, ultrasound and other early diagnostic tests have lead to a significant decrease in western countries and urban cities in india. Cervical cancer vaccine is another method of prevention of this killer.

When cancer has already afflicted the woman then treatment is the only recourse and this generally is surgical if the cancer is detected early. This ofcourse
is being helped by regular papsmears for the general population which helps in catching the disease in early stages.
Surgical options generally are radical and traumatic in which a large abdominal cut is given to remove the uterus and ovaries and remove adjacent tissues in order to eradicate the disease.

Recently this surgery is being done by minimal invasive techniques or endoscopically through very small pin hole cuts on the tummy.
Very few centres in India and abroad are doing this surgery and even fewer are doing this by endoscopy.
The advantages are manifold
1) Less traumatic
2) No blood transfusions
3) Better visualisation and hence clearance of tissues
4) No large unsightly scars/cosmetically better
5) Faster recovery time
6) Lesser complications
7) Early discharge from hospital and return to work
8) Much less expensive etc

The technical equipment required is very advanced for this as is the skill. This is being done at Batra Hospital now by the Department of Gynaecological Endoscopy.
Mrs. Bimla Devi 55yr old lady and a mother of two, came with a complaint of irregular postmenopausal bleeding, she was referred from Himachal Pradesh and had a papsmear report showing abnormal cervical cells. A cervical biopsy was done which showed frank cancer cervix. After requisite tests were done and the cancer staged clinically and radiologically, she was taken up for a Laparoscopic Radical hysterectomy (removal of uterus) with dissection of adjacent tissues and lymph nodes also known as a Wertheims hysterectomy. This was done on the 21st of October 2010 by Dr. Bela Makhija and Dr. Rahul Manchanda and their team at Batra Hospital and Research Center, New Delhi.

The surgery which even when done by traditional open technique is considered technically difficult, was done meticulously and took longer to do
laparoscopically/endoscopically but was achieved and done successfully. **Patient was up and about the very next day miraculously and was put on an oral diet. No blood transfusions** were required and she recovered well and was discharged soon on the 24th of October to go back to her native town.
The tissue biopsy showed complete extirpation of the cancer and there was no spread to surrounding organs or tissues.
This surgery is being done in very few centres in India and abroad.

This type of surgery is done in early stages of cancer cervix and decreases the mortality and morbidity tremendously over traditional surgery and affords great advantages for the patient as described above.